appications filed for seeking approval. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has already been requested to furnish the full particulars. However, these particulars have not been filed till date.

RAISING O.M.B. Under DEBT SWAP SCHEME

1953. SHRI SAJNY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra has vide his letter dated the 28th May, 2004 requested the Central Government to allow the State Government to use its discretion in timing and purpose of raising Open Market Borrowings under Debt Swap Scheme; and

(d) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra, vide quoted letter, sought to use additional open market borrowings of Rs. 3306 crore allocated to Government of Maharashtra by Government of India for swap of high cost GoI debt for swapping/paying off their other debts. This was not agreed to.

Office of Ombudsman for direct taxes

1954. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt are considering creation of an office of Ombudsman for direct taxes; and

(b) if so, the role of the Ombudsman and the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Ombudsman shall protect individual taxpayers' rights and reduce their burden; identify issues that increase the complianced burden or create problems for taxpayers and bring those issues to the attention to the Ministry of Finance; make appropriate legislative proposals where necessary; send periodical reports to the Department of Revenue

suggesting appropriate action. Initially, offices of Income Tax Ombudsman are being set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

Salaried tax payers under scrutiny net

1955. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salaried tax payers are likely to be brought under scrutiny net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total earnings Government receive from salaried tax payers and from non-salaried tax payers; and

(d) whether salaried tax payers are subject to more harassment than non-salaried class?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are guidelines for selection of cases for scrutiny issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes which do not exclude salaried tax payers.

(b) Data for these categories is not maintained.

(c) No such information has come to notice of the Department as per record.

Increase in FDI

1956. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is among the top four FDI destinations, but is well below the top ranking China, according to the survey conducted by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to increase the volume of Foreign Direct Investment in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The global Investment Location Expert Survey by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)